

back to school

kansas state
collegian
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Textbook purchasing necessary, but not necessarily difficult



One of the largest “hidden” expenditures of college is textbooks. Like it or not, students are guaranteed to spend more money than most would like buying these tomes of wisdom, but what happens when Varney’s is out of stock or the order hasn’t come in and classes are starting?

Never fear, there are many ways to make sure all the necessary textbooks are available before classes start and the stress of being book-less begins.

Start looking for your books early. Whether you buy them all from Varney’s or you search around for the best price for each individual book, checking for books before the semester starts makes it much more likely that you will have them ready when classes begins. Check out the Varney’s website and order your books there — you can pick them up once you get back to Manhattan — or order them online the week before classes start and have them shipped to your school address. Either way, try to get them before the rush for textbooks begin and bookshelves start to empty.

If a book you need isn’t available at Varney’s, don’t panic. There are several different options. The first, and perhaps most obvious, is to check other online sources for the book...Amazon.com, Ebay.com, Chegg.com and Facebook Marketplace all come to mind, but even a simple Google search of an ISBN number comes up with a variety of different places from which to get a book.

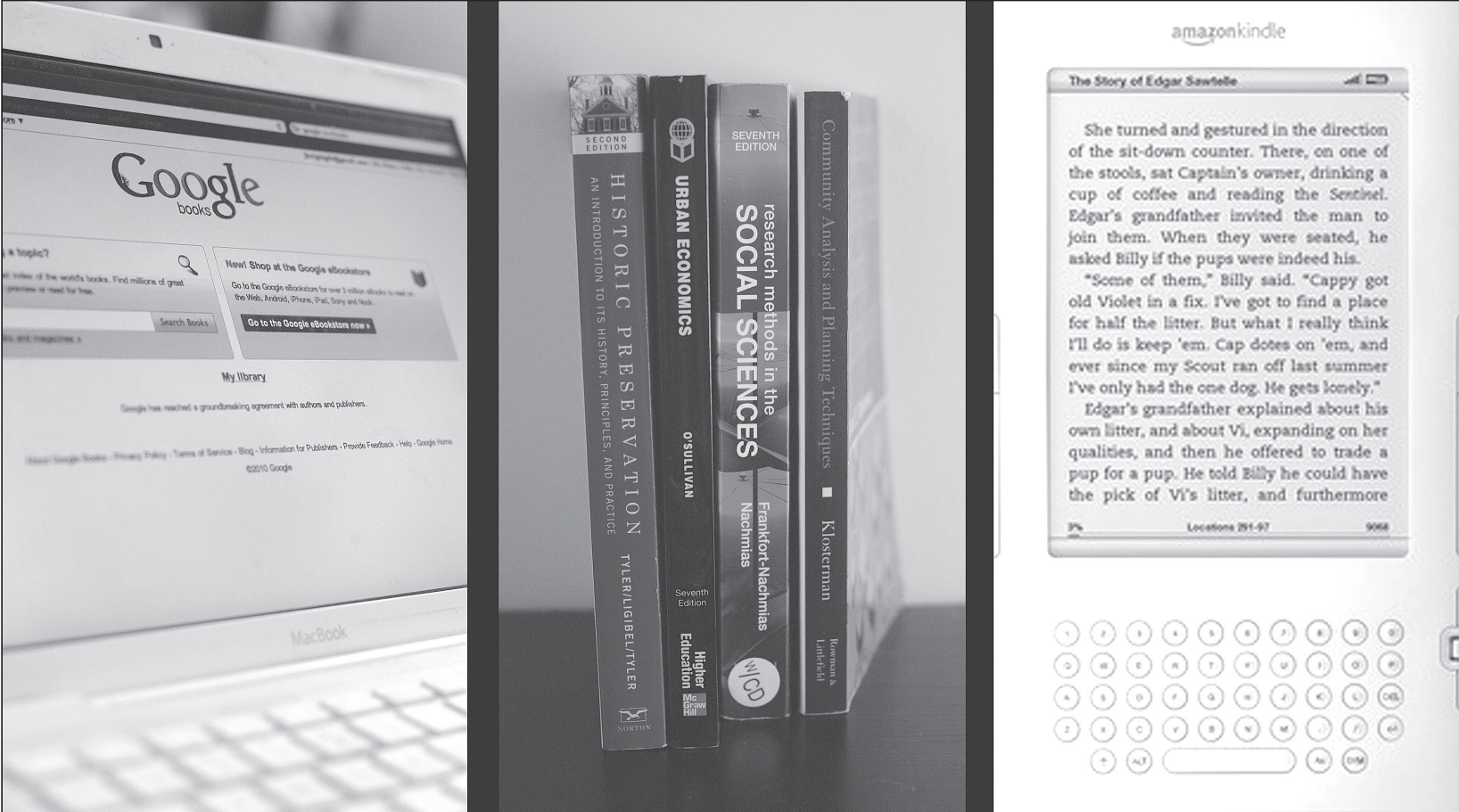


Photo Illustration by Jonathan Knight | Collegian

Students now have many options on how and where to buy textbooks. K-State students have three common options. First, are web-based books like what are available through Google Books. Traditional textbooks are available locally at Varney’s, but many other online ordering services like Amazon.com also carry traditional books. Finally, the Amazon Kindle has become a popular way for textbooks to be read and stored. The wide variety of textbook format options means students can find textbooks cheaper, faster, and easier.

Don’t overlook the potential of Hale Library, either; although it’s not a guarantee, there is a high possibility for at least a copy of the first reading your class will cover from anthology to be available in the library, even if the entire book is not.

As for the book to be ordered. Few bookstores won’t order books, especially when it’s a book that is supposed to be there, like a textbook at Varney’s. Ordering books can take some time, so it’s best to get the order in as early as possible, but it is an excellent option, especially when looking for some obscure textbook that just isn’t sold anywhere else.

Ask around; chances are friends or friends-of-friends are in the class and may have a spare book you can borrow for the first couple weeks of classes. Or, if you’re truly comfortable with the person, think about offering them to split the cost of the book and just share it throughout the semester. Be aware that book-sharing has its downsides, like limiting study time to only when you have the book or are with the person you’re sharing it with, but can also be a good option to save a few dollars.

Don’t buy it. While I don’t recommend it, the truth is that some classes are passable without the textbook. Will it be more difficult? Yes. Will it probably result in a lower grade than if you had bought the textbook? Yes. Are textbooks sometimes completely unnecessary and a waste of money? Yes. This is most definitely a personal judgment call and one that will make it hard for professors to take pity on you if you bomb the first exam and give them the excuse that you “thought you wouldn’t really need the book,” but it is a viable option.

Whether you buy them from Varney’s, online or from a friend, the source of the textbook is not as important as making sure you have the books you need and you get them in the most cost-efficient way possible. If that means buying them all at Varney’s and picking them up before classes start, enjoy the rewards points you will undoubtedly pick up. If it means combining a few different sources to get all the books as cheaply as possible, enjoy buying whatever you could have gotten with your rewards points using the actual cash you saved. If you opt not to buy the books at all — best of luck to you and I hope you put the money saved to good use.

Elena Buckner is a junior in secondary education. Please send comments to edge@spub.ksu.edu.

Mark Your Calendars Spring 2011

MONDAY, JAN. 17

Martin Luther King Day – Beach Museum of Art Open House 10 - 12 p.m.

- Martin Luther King Day is celebrated every third Monday in January, around the time of King’s Birthday. He would have been 81 years old.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 26

Agri-Industry Career Fair— K-State Student Union Ballroom 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

SATURDAY, JAN. 29

Women’s Basketball v. Kansas University—Bramlage Coliseum 2 p.m.

MONDAY, FEB. 14

Men’s Basketball v. Kansas University—Bramlage Coliseum 8 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 14

Gaelic Storm—McCain Auditorium 7:30 p.m.

-McCain Performance

Series to feature world-renowned Celtic band “Gaelic Storm.” The group is best known as the below-deck, party band from “Titanic.”

MONDAY, MARCH 21-25

Spring Break—Student Holiday

SATURDAY, MARCH 26

The final day for students to drop a regular session course.

FRIDAY, APRIL 1 – SATURDAY, APRIL 2

Spring Dance 2011—McCain Auditorium 7:30 p.m.

-The annual dance performance presented by K-State Dance features dance students in modern, jazz, ballet and tap.

MONDAY, MAY 9 – FRIDAY, MAY 13

Finals Week



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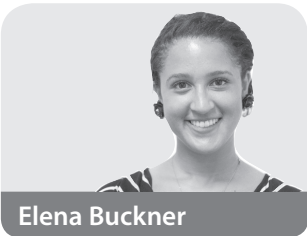
SUNDAY, JANUARY 23, 2011

KANSAS STATE STUDENT UNION

Grand Ballroom on 2nd Floor, Manhattan
Doors open at noon
Fashion Show at 2:30 p.m.

Admission is FREE www.manhattanbridalshow.com

Time adjustments required in spring to keep friends, free time



Elena Buckner

Winter break is over, new schedules are looming and beginning, spring is just around the corner and a new semester has begun. For anyone who thinks one semester is ever exactly the same as the one before, however, there's a news flash coming your way: it's not. New semesters bring new class schedules, which has a

trickle down effect to new work schedules and new times when free time is or isn't available. So, how to make the adjustment to the new semester?

The most important element of adapting to a new semester is getting the new schedule under control. Create a weekly calendar of classes, work and any other regular obligations like clubs meetings or sports practices. Sometimes merely seeing the new schedule all mapped out is all that needs to happen to be prepared for the new semester.

If not, there are a few other techniques to keep in mind. Get on the same page with friends' and roommates' schedules and work out time

you know you will have time to see them. Keep in mind that changing schedules may mean changing things up at home as well. For example, students living in the residence halls should keep in mind that just because your roommate's classes didn't start until noon last semester doesn't mean they don't start at 8am this semester. Have a short conversation about sleeping and waking conversations early in the semester to avoid any unpleasant surprises those first few weeks. For people living outside the residence halls, the adjustment may be easier, but don't forget to make sure people still have time to take care of you decide is im-

portant. If all the roommates cleaned together on Tuesday afternoons last semester, double check before assuming that will happen again this semester.

If classes seem a bit overwhelming at first, think about signing up for a tutor or creating a study group with fellow classmates. Getting academic help early can take stress away at the end of the semester; it is much easier to start out strong and maintain a decent grade than to struggle early on and work to get things back on track.

Perhaps the most important aspect of getting ready for the spring semester is planning for spring break...despite the

often dreary January weather, spring break is just two months away and if planning isn't already in the works, it should be.

With thoughts of spring break comes thoughts of just how long the spring semester can be. A note to all freshmen: if you thought the fall semester seemed long, the spring semester can seem even longer. While the one break of the semester comes earlier, making it easier to "make it" to spring break, the weeks after it loom long and large that Sunday of return. There's not much you can do to avoid the moment of realization that seven weeks remain after the end of spring break and not one day of

those weeks includes a student holiday besides take a deep breath and get started on all the homework you didn't do over the break.

Adjusting to a new semester is not an overly complicated process, but it is an important one. Treat it much like you treated the beginning of the school year in the fall...get an organized schedule early on and be willing to move things around if necessary. Besides that, just remember to have fun and work hard for these nine weeks leading up to spring break.

Elena Buckner is a junior in secondary education. Please send comments to edge@pub.ksu.edu.

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www.gracebchurch.org

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fbcms@yahoo.com

Wildcat Ministries Student Center
1801 Anderson Ave.

K-state Wesley

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kstatewesley@gmail.com
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The politically correct way to regift following holidays

Just as you can count on cold weather and Christmas cookies, you can always be sure that some gifts each year will sorely miss their mark. If you've ever considered the taboo art of regifting you may have wondered how the pros do it. While it may be common knowledge to remove any gift tags and rewrap a gift, here are some common mistakes made by rookie regifters. Avoid these and you are free to regift without an ounce of guilt. It's good for the environment, your wallet and a head start on your new years resolution to get rid of all that junk in your closet.

Mistake: You give something an acquaintance may have seen you wear once or have seen sitting on your desk or in your car

It's important to always re-

member who the original giver was and to consider whether the recipient will ever come into contact with this person. In addition, make the effort to carefully consider the interests of the recipient to avoid leaving someone else in the position you have found yourself in. Ask yourself if this person will find use or enjoyment in the item. Regifting should be given as much consideration as one would give to the purchase of a new gift.

Mistake: You neglect to make sure gift cards are not partially spent

This requires you to be tactful and simply do your homework by checking the card's balance and expiration date online or calling the phone number on the back. If it expires in less than a year or has had any fees from non-use

already deducted, don't regift it. Similarly, avoid giving other "partially spent" items by checking for dead batteries or missing parts in electronics. Also be sure you can explain the function of the electronic and still have the original manual.

Mistake: You regift an obvious giveaway

Freebies or promotional items like key chains, coffee mugs and outerwear with some random company's logo are strictly off limits. If it didn't cost you anything to begin with, it's worth even less the second time around. Other things that give away a regift include mangled or unoriginal packaging, an item from a store no longer in business, fragrances no longer available and receipts left in the packaging.

Mistake: You give opened or stale baked goods

Don't confuse barely used with brand-new. This means, if there are any signs of wear and tear, no matter how subtle, the item is a no go for regifting. A broken seal, scratched part or mismatched twist-ties and cords can all be problematic. In regards to perishable items, be sure cookies have stayed sealed tightly and chocolates have not lost moisture. Use some of the money you saved to purchase ribbon or tin to dress up the treats.

Mistake: You choose to regift something home-made

This poses several problems. First, resist the temptation to claim you crafted it yourself, second anything with a personal message, signature

or monogram is off limits no matter how ugly or useless it may seem, it was made with sentiment and love and you should find a way to appreciate it.

Mistake: You confuse regifting and giving a hand-me-down

Regifting is strictly giving away a gift you've never used, most commonly to pass off as an original gift. Giving a hand-me-down is giving away a gift you've used, but believe the other person will either use more or enjoy more. Hand-me-downs should be acknowledged as something both you and the recipient mutually recognize as being used. They can be given as a "just because" or white elephant gift, but usually aren't appropriate for birthdays or holidays. Attempting to pass off a gift you've opened and

used before, as a new gift is tacky and inconsiderate.

If all else fails

If an item in question lands in the above criteria and you are unsure of its regifting potential, it can't be returned or won't be enjoyed by anyone you know, remember that a gift that disappointed you can make someone else's holiday. Instead of contributing to your storage closet or a landfill, consider selling items on ebay or Craigslist. You can even use the profits to purchase brand new gifts for the people you love. Organizations like Goodwill can also use what you can't to make someone else's day a little brighter.

Amy Himmelberg is a freshman in pre-journalism and mass communication. Send comments to edge@spub.ksu.edu.

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